

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT SERVICES
AGREEMENTS WITH THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
AND PACIFIC CLINICS
TO IMPLEMENT THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

REQUEST

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute Department of Mental Health (DMH) Consultant Services Agreements (Agreements) with the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) and Pacific Clinics for the development and implementation of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Workforce Training and Development (WTD) Project for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08. For FY 2007-08, the NMHA Agreement will have a Total Contract Amount (TCA) of \$946,000, and the Pacific Clinics Agreement will have a TCA of \$465,750, totally funded with MHSA Community Services and Support (CSS) one-time funds. The Agreements will be effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2008.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to these Agreements and establish as a new TCA the aggregate of the original Agreement and all amendments, provided that: 1) the County's total payments to a contractor under these Agreements for FY 2007-08 shall not exceed an increase of 20 percent from the applicable revised TCA; 2) any such increase shall be used to provide additional services or reflect program and/or policy changes; 3) the Board of Supervisors has appropriated sufficient funds for all changes; 4) approval of County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or their designee is obtained prior to any such Amendment; 5) the parties may, by written Amendment, reduce programs or services and revise the applicable TCA; and 6) the Director of Mental Health shall notify the CEO's office after execution of the Amendment.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval of the proposed Agreements and implementation of the WTD Project is expected to play a significant role in encouraging transformation of service delivery to a recovery model approach, and raising awareness that staff and educators must have new and different training to support the evolving system. Implementation of the WTD Projects in all Service Areas will significantly enhance the availability and quality of

integrated, recovery-based services for mental health consumers throughout the County.

BACKGROUND

The State-approved MHSA CSS Plan focuses on recovery-oriented services for children and transition-age youth with serious emotional disturbances and adults and older adults with severe and persistent mental illness. Special emphasis is placed upon provision of services for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, incarcerated or at risk for incarceration, or placed in long-term locked mental health facilities or at risk for such a placement because of their mental illness. The CSS Plan is also focused on adequately and appropriately addressing the unique needs of the diverse ethnic and racial groups in our County.

Each of the planned WTD Project programs will offer specialized lectures as well as interactive learning experiences to help guide staff in using recovery-oriented approaches in their work with clients enrolled in MHSA Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs and other MHSA-funded services. Individuals from all Service Areas will be invited to participate in these projects. Eventually, these training projects may become a significant resource for well-qualified individuals to staff MHSA-funded programs and those programs transforming to serve clients using a recovery approach.

The Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist training program will include the design and delivery of a 15-week training program to prepare individuals with one of the following qualifications: Bachelors degree, advanced degree, equivalent certification, or experience to work in the mental health field. The training will be made available at a local community college and delivered to at least 100 students. Of these students, 25% must be consumers or family members, and 50% must be from ethnic communities. Contractors will develop and implement the logistical, support and marketing functions required for a successful training program, including a detailed recruitment plan to meet the desired student population characteristics, identification of appropriate instructors, scheduling of classes and arrangement of facilities, development and use of an appropriate educational and learning theory design for adults, including adults with disabilities, and approved content

The College Faculty Immersion training program will include a variety of adult learning strategies to explore the concepts and practice requirements for evidence-based practices, promising practices, recovery-oriented services, peer support, cultural sensitivity, and age-appropriate mental health services for all relevant professions. The training will include site visits and clinical/field work with opportunities to assess the

impact of the immersion program on curricula, the feasibility of including related subjects in future lesson plans, and the practicality of disseminating the knowledge and curricula throughout the systems in which the participating college faculty teach. The contractor will consult with direct services personnel and administrators to ensure that appropriate promising and evidence-based practices are included in the immersion training, and will prepare the materials necessary to distribute the training among a broad spectrum of health and human services educators in Los Angeles County. The training will be made available at 34 educational institutions, and 120 faculty staff will be trained.

The DMH Staff Immersion training program will focus on helping existing staff in 11 directly-operated programs that are transforming or already have transformed to gain greater skills in new approaches that support a client and family driven system. Eleven staff at each site will be trained for a total of 121 DMH staff trained. Expository and didactic sessions will focus on the concepts and practice requirements for evidence-based practices, promising practices, recovery-orientation, peer support, cultural sensitivity, and appropriate mental health service delivery. Site visits and clinical/field work will promote experiential learning with opportunities to evaluate the impact of the immersion training services on clinical practice, the feasibility of including similar training in all DMH directly-operated and contracted service sites, and the practicality of disseminating the knowledge and methods throughout the service delivery system. Participants will have the chance to practice techniques learned in the classroom or other teaching settings including internships. To ensure relevance of the content, the contractor will consult with direct services personnel and administrators about appropriate promising or evidence-based practices included in the immersion training.

There is no increase in net County cost. The FY 2007-08 total cost for these projects is \$1,411,750, which is fully funded by MHSA CSS one-time funds and is included in the Department's FY 2007-08 Adopted Budget. Specific allocations by WTD Project programs include \$1,086,750 for Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist training, \$200,000 for College Faculty Immersion training, and \$125,000 for DMH Staff Immersion training.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On January 12, 2007, DMH issued Request For Services (RFS) No. 9 for WTD Services to 76 qualified bidders on the Master Agreement list that indicated an interest in developing and implementing workforce training on their Statement of Qualifications. DMH sent agencies that expressed interest a notice of the release of the RFS along with a compact disc of the RFS, and invited them to attend a mandatory Proposers'

Conference on February 1, 2007. Representatives from 36 contract agencies attended the Proposers' Conference.

By the deadline of March 5, 2007, DMH received five (5) proposals from three (3) different agencies in response to RFS No. 9. This included three (3) proposals to provide the Rehabilitation Specialist training, one (1) proposal to provide the College Faculty Immersion training, and one (1) proposal to provide the Staff Immersion training. Soon after, DMH convened a review panel of five (5) individuals representing consumers, other County departments, and DMH staff to assess and score the proposals. Simultaneously, review of the budget and reference contacts were conducted by DMH staff. The total scores were subsequently reviewed by DMH's Executive Management Team, which then finalized its recommendations. DMH plans to award funds to NMHA for Rehabilitation Specialist, College Faculty Immersion, and Staff Immersion training. DMH plans to award funds to Pacific Clinics for Rehabilitation Specialist training.

The agency that was not awarded RFS No. 9 funding withdrew its request for a Debriefing; therefore, no appeals are pending.

Upon Board approval, DMH will execute Consultant Services Agreements with NMHA and Pacific Clinics; implementation of the WTD Projects in all Service Areas will significantly enhance the availability and quality of integrated, recovery-based services for mental health consumers throughout the County.

DMH CONTACT

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